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Human rights questions: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

The situation of human rights in Myanmar

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.48

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. At its 54th meeting, on 19 November 2002, the Third Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.48. The programme budget implications of the draft resolution were presented to the Committee in document A/C.3/57/L.83 and are reproduced below for the consideration of the Fifth Committee.

Statement of programme budget implications

2. Under the terms of paragraph 6 of draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.48, the General Assembly would, inter alia, request the Secretary-General to continue to provide his good offices and to pursue his discussions on the situation of human rights and the restoration of democracy with the Government and people of Myanmar; to submit additional reports to the Assembly during its fifty-seventh session on the progress of those discussions; and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

Relationship of the proposed request to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005

3. The above request relates to subprogramme 1.1, Prevention, control and resolution of conflicts, of programme 1, Political affairs, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.

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Activities by which the request would be implemented

4. In his report to the General Assembly (A/57/484), the Secretary-General, inter alia, called upon the international community to continue to respond appropriately and proportionately to developments in the national reconciliation process in Myanmar. He also indicated that he stood ready to continue to do his utmost to facilitate the process of national reconciliation in Myanmar, together with the assistance of all interested Member States.

5. Consistent with the request contained in paragraph 6 of draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.48, the efforts of the Secretary-General would be continued during 2003 in order to build upon the positive momentum generated to date and to facilitate further dialogue among all interested parties in Myanmar towards the national reconciliation process. Those efforts would be carried out as part of the activities of his good offices through the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General in Myanmar and would include contacts and consultations with various parties in Myanmar. The Special Envoy would work closely with the members of the United Nations country team whose programmes in Myanmar complement the good offices role in facilitating the national reconciliation process. The exchange of views with representatives of ethnic nationalities, the diplomatic corps and international non-governmental organizations in Myanmar would also be continued.

Estimated resource requirements

6. The estimated costs of continuing the efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General through his Special Envoy for Myanmar for a one-year period, from 1 January to 31 December 2003, amount to $307,400 net ($372,600 gross), including the provision of salary for the Special Envoy on a when-actually-employed basis as well as the salaries and common staff costs for two staff who would provide support to the Special Envoy; the official travel of the Special Envoy to Myanmar, neighbouring countries in the region, Europe and North America, including United Nations Headquarters; and miscellaneous services in support of his mission. Substantive and administrative support to the Special Envoy would also be provided by the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat.

7. A review of the expenditures relating to the activities of the Special Envoy in 2002 indicates that, out of the total appropriation of $277,900 for 2002, an estimated amount of $143,500 is expected to remain unencumbered at the end of the year. After taking that balance into account, the overall additional requirements for the activities of the Special Envoy from 1 January to 31 December 2003 amount to $163,900 net ($229,100 gross).

Action required from the General Assembly

8. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.48, additional provisions in the amount of $163,900 would be required under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for 2002-2003. Furthermore, an amount of $65,200 would be required under section 32, Staff assessment, to be offset by corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

9. **By its resolution 56/254 A of 24 December 2001, the General Assembly appropriated $98,338,700 for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for 2002-2003. Since that provision has been more than fully allocated to operations approved by the Assembly or the Security Council, the additional requirement of $163,900 net ($229,100 gross) that would arise should the Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.48 would have to be treated under the procedures provided for in paragraph 11 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986. Accordingly, additional appropriations in the amounts outlined in paragraph 8 above would be required for the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.**

Annex

Personnel costs

1. A provision in the amount of $170,900 is required for the salary of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, at the Under-Secretary-General level, for a maximum of 270 days in 2003, at the rate applicable to individuals engaged on a when-actually-employed basis, and for the salaries and common staff costs of two staff (one P-3 Political Affairs Officer and one local staff), who would provide support to the Special Envoy.

Travel

2. Provision amounting to $127,200 is also required for the travel of the Special Envoy to Myanmar and neighbouring countries within the region, Europe and North America. Requirements for travel include airfare, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses for an estimated 30 trips, with each trip lasting, on average, two days and a half.

Operating costs

3. Requirements for miscellaneous services, including telephone calls, facsimile charges and other miscellaneous services are estimated at $9,300.